

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01143 121043Z

42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 XMB-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

FRB-03 FEA-01 COME-00 ERDA-05 OES-03 ACDA-05 /094 W

----- 007179

R 120942Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2481

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 1143

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ENRG, PFOR, KU CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN FINANCE MINISTER VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST

REF: KUWAIT 4388 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT CANADIAN FINANCE MINISTER TURNER INTENDS TO VISIT KUWAIT IN APRIL. HE WILL ALSO VISIT IRAN, ALGERIA, MOROCCO AND PERHAPS SAUDI ARABIA. HE WILL BE MAKING ESSENTIALLY A GOOD WILL VISIT TO KUWAIT, ALTHOUGH HE WILL BE TRAVELING NOT ONLY AS CANADIAN MINISTER OF FINANCE BUT ALSO AS CHAIRMAN OF SPECIAL IMF COMMITTEE. ACCORDING TO EMBOFF JOHN SINCLAIR FROM CANADIAN EMBASSY TEHRAN WHO VISITING HERE, TURNER HAS NO SPECIAL BILATERAL ISSUES TO RAISE WITH KUWAITIS.

2. WE RECALLED THAT KUWAIT MINISTER ELECTRICITY AND WATER ALGHANIM VISITED CANADA FOLLOWING DETROIT ENERGY CONFERENCE LAST FALL. UPON HIS RETURN TO KUWAIT HE INDICATED THAT CANADIAN MINISTER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01143 121043Z

ENERGY MCDONALD MIGHT VISIT HERE AND THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT

KUWAIT WOULD SEEK TO BUY NUCLEAR REACTORS FROM CANADA (REFTEL). SINCLAIR SAID THAT HE DOUBTS THAT CANADIAN ENERGY MINISTER HAS ANY INTENTION OF VISITING KUWAIT IN NEAR FUTURE. FURTHERMORE IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT GOC WOULD AUTHORIZE SALE OF CANADIAN NUCLEAR REACTORS TO KUWAIT.

3. COMMENT: RESTRICTIVE INVESTMENT LAWS TEND TO DISCOURAGE KUWAITIS FROM MAKING LARGE SCALE INVESTMENTS IN CANADA, ALTHOUGH ONTARIO PROVINCIAL MINISTER OF FINANCE WAS HERE RECENTLY SEEKING FUNDS AND KUWAITI INSTITUTIONS HAVE UNDERWRITTEN CERTAIN CANADIAN LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL PUBLIC UTILITY EUROBOND ISSUES. KUWAIT NOT RPT NOT SIGNIFICANT EXPORTER OF OIL TO CANADA. WE ANTICIPATE THAT DURING TURNER'S VISIT TO KUWAIT, GOK PROBABLY WILL RAISE INVESTMENT, NUCLEAR ENERGY AND CONSUMER/PRODUCER QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION.
STOLTZFUS

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